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23 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD;

SUBJECT: Conversation with [] and [] Office of Communications, 25X1A
regarding History of Office of Communications, 25X1A
1953-1956

25X1A 1. [] insisted that the Office of Communications was never
under DD/P. It was a division under AD/SO and became an office under
25X1A DCI in 1952 at the time that OPC and OSO were disbanded. (According
to [] SECRET, the Office of Communica-
tions was under DD/P at that time. Whether it was transferred to DCI
sometime between that date and March 1953 is not clear. [] 25X1A
25X1A in his chapter X, [] expresses uncertainty on this point.
It needs further investigation. I found no notice or order to that
effect).

2. They seemed reluctant to furnish me statistics on work load
as shown by word groups. They both said that these figures needed
interpretation. An increase in number of word groups handled did
not necessarily mean an increase in manhours since improvements were
made in handling traffic. A change over from manual to machine methods
of coding, ~~and~~ sending and receiving speeded up services ~~without~~ and
reduced manhours needed to handle traffic of given volume. On the other
hand, the workload statistics were misleading since some station chiefs
required coverage. They wanted code clerks to be available because they
might want to send some cables. The actual traffic handled by some
such stations might be very light. Coverage depended upon the wishes
of the station chief and the exigencies of the situation. If it looked

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as though an emergency might arise, a station chief would demand coverage.

3. The Office of Communications has built in overtime since it runs on a twenty-four hour a day, seven days a week schedule, including all holidays. In addition, the Office is forced to call in its reserves for unscheduled overtime when a flap breaks out and unusual demands are made on the signal center in L Building. If a flap occurs on Friday afternoon, the signal people have to stay until the traffic is sent out. They cannot hold the cables until Monday morning.

4. In 1955 the Office of Communications tried on a world-wide basis, the establishment of a career service. The Director of Communications had to have a flexible organization, a flexible T/O. If an emergency arose in a given area, he wanted to be able to assign the officers needed in that area. All communications career officers are on the Office of Communications payroll. The Director of Communications budgets for the field staff as well as headquarters staff.

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That day has gone. Now sets have to be tailor made. They are produced in smaller quantities. They are suited to a specific base. The requirements for Europe are different from those for Far East or Middle East. Transitors are now more reliable and less expensive than they were. Special projects require special recorders, special equipment for intercepts, and no one else has it. This equipment is expensive. It is difficult to forecast budget needs.



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18 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with [redacted] O/D/CO, 25X1A
Regarding History of OC 1953-1956.

1. I raised again the question of where the Office of Communications was located as of January 1953 and I referred to [redacted] 25X1A
of 19 June 1952 which mentioned OC as part of DD/P. I also commented on the August 1952 creation of the Cable Secretariat.

25X1A 2. [redacted] said that he knew about the establishment of the Cable Secretariat in the Office of the Director. General Smith said that the distribution of cables was a command function. He was vexed at the practice in CIA of lateral designation of cable users. In the military service cables were addressed to the person in command. ~~under~~
The person next to him in command might have the power to sign off on a cable in the name of the commanding officer. General Smith pointed out that in the Department of State every ^{incoming} cable was addressed to the Secretary of State and every outgoing cable was addressed to the chief of station. General Smith said that he was tired of having officers talk to each other by cable. He was going to sign every outgoing cable and he was going to send cables to the senior officer in charge of station.

25X1A 3. [redacted] said that he helped rewrite the cable procedure. All incoming cables were to be addressed to DIR. Outgoing cables were to be sent to field station as designated by four letter abbreviation with the prefix, senior officer present. This procedure went into effect in August 1952 about the time that the Cable Secretariat was established in the Office of the Director.

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25X1A 4. When General Smith was in Europe during the war he was
25X1A in charge of distribution of cables and he had a young major, a
25X1A [] as cable(officer). ~~secretary~~ Gen. Smith asked OC
25X1A to get [] for CIA Cable Secretariat. [] was
25X1A brought on board and placed under [] in the Director's
25X1A Office. To protect [] at the beginning OC suggested Mr.
25X1A [] as deputy. [] was familiar with CIA communications
25X1A problems and helped [] over the initial hurdles.

25X1A 5. The Office of Communications had had a distribution section
25X1A in its Signal Center. This section was a service section but it
25X1A was in an awkward position since the distribution of cables has its
25X1A command aspects. [] took over this section and the T/O
25X1A for the Cable Secretariat was greatly expanded.

25X1A 6. [] said that he would be glad to answer questions
regarding the research and development program. He said that there
were no cut off points in the program. It was a continuous one.

[]

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21 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with [] O/D/CO,
Regarding History of Office of Communications, 1953-1956.

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✓ 1. [] said that the Office of Communications did not concur in the recommendation of the IG that the DCI approve the consolidation of the Special Signal Center and the Agency Cable Secretariat. The matter was dropped. The Office of Communications took the view that the personnel of the Cable Secretariat were largely clerical and did not fit into the communications staff.

2. He said that the relations between the Office of Communications and the Office of Training were cordial and close. OC had its own training because of the technical character of communications training. Requests for communications training for DD/P personnel came through OTR.

✓ 2. The Office of Security approved in 1957 the proposal that Office of Communications personnel be granted permission to engage in amateur radio operations as a means of keeping up skills. This is done under careful controls. The Office of Security and DD/P have to approve.

4. The recommendation of the IG regarding the establishment of more supergrade positions in OC has been implemented. There are now nine supergraded in OC. The grade structure has been raised.

5. The IG's recommendations regarding reduction of cable traffic have not prevented the increase in cable traffic. Many things have been tried but the traffic keeps mounting. Operations officers use more cables than they used to.

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6. The IG's recommendations regarding increasing the personnel and fiscal functions of the Administrative Staff of the Office of Communications were implemented.

7. It was not feasible to act on the IG's recommendation that the Supplemental Programs Division be abolished. [] operations cannot be handled by ordinary channels. [] operations also have to be kept together. Auxiliary functions are too sensitive.

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8. In accordance with the IG's recommendation, the administrative officers of the Office of Communications have been put under the DD/S Career Service Board.

9. The problem which the Office of Communications once had in handling its relations with the Office of Logistics has been solved. The Office of Logistics has improved its support activities.

10. [] said that [] would like to see what the Historical Staff wrote about the Office of Communications. I told him that [] would make that decision.

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